

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Mighty Talent Jr and Mighty Talent are the 2014 Caiso and Soca Monarchs



SAN NICOLAS – The Aruba Caiso and Soca Monarch 2014 finals took place on Saturday in the Carnival Village in San Nicolas. A total of 35 finalists participated accompanied by 14 bands. In the wee hours of yesterday, about 4 a.m. the winners were picked: Soca King - Claudius Phillips (Mighty Talent) with his soca Carnaval Cheezy, and Caiso

King - Shawn Phillips (Mighty Talent Jr) with his asio: Palo.

The results are as follows:

In the Soca category:
 5th place: Dr. Boa – The Failures
 4th place: Blacky – Le Groove
 3rd place: Lady Mezzo – Oreo
 2nd place: T-Money – Le Groove

1st place: Mighty Talent – Oreo

In the Caiso category:
 5th place: Lady Mezzo – Oreo

4th place: Mighty Tattoo – Zeta Band

3rd place: The Commissioner – XC Lanz Band

2nd place: King Jeon – Upgrade Music

1st place: Mighty Talent Jr – Oreo

Congratulations to the winners!

Thousands on Cape Cod remain without power in aftermath of storm; more snow coming Tuesday

The storm that swept the coast of Massachusetts Saturday night brought only 4 inches of snow to Boston, but more than a foot to some towns south of the city and left thousands without power.

Crews have been working to get power systems back on track, but mid-afternoon, about 4,859 customers remained off the grid, with those hardest hit on the mid-Cape.

And there's more snow to come on Tuesday.

"It's another storm that will move up from the south," said Charlie Foley, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Taunton, "but it

won't be the magnitude of what we had Saturday night."

The snow is expected to begin falling late Tuesday morning or early afternoon. One to 3 inches are expected in Boston, and Foley said that's a worst-case scenario.

After that, there will be a temporary reprieve from the cold: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are expected to warm up significantly, with the high temperatures on Friday potentially reaching the 50s.

The warmer temperatures will be good news for residents hit hard by the barrage of snowstorms. Especially on the Cape, the most recent accumu-

lation may have been the most harmful.

At Logan International Airport yesterday afternoon, there were few stranded passengers in the check-in area. The airport had remained open throughout the storm, and extensive snow-plowing efforts early in the morning kept the runways clear.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation spokeswoman Sara Lavoie said the agency's snow removal efforts were aided by the fact that roads were largely clear of vehicles. Drivers, it seems, heeded the governor's pleas to avoid unnecessary travel.

DOW installing bleachers on the L.G. Smith Blvd today and tomorrow

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Works announces to the general public and motorists in particular that today and tomorrow it is placing different items on the Carnaval route in Oranjestad, among others bleachers and tents.

The L. G. Smith Blvd will be closed for all traffic from Talk of the Town up to the Government house, today and tomorrow, from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m.

All inhabitants and businesses on this route have already received a letter concerning the closure.

On March 4, DOW will start dismantling the bleachers and all other items placed on

abovementioned road, which will last for at least 2 days.

DOW asks everyone to take good notice of this and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Glitz has a winner for the ultimate Valentine's Day gift



The Winner



Glitz Casino Carnival Queen

ORANJESTAD -- Loyal patrons of Glitz Casino, located within the La Cabana Resort, packed the cozy casinos tables and Liquid Lounge on Valentine's Day, as they awaited to hear who would be the winner of a brand new Nissan sedan.

The casino provided a festive ambiance with a mix of holiday and carnival decor, and their own elegantly garbed carnival queen.

The car campaign has been running since early December of last year, and the tumbler was loaded with raffle tickets as Casino Owner Elizabeth van Romondt pulled out five names who would be the finalists for the sporty new auto.

General Manager Chris Scott marched out the fortunate five, to stand by the car at the casino's entrance while drawing out keys attached to electronic openers, to see who among them would be the lucky winner.

Everyone's breath was held in anticipation as the first three attempts did not result in a winner, and it was down to only two. When asked if his heart was pounding, Leonard Sana-wi, originally from Suriname, shrugged, asserting "not really."

Continued on page 5



Car winner Leonard with Casino owner Elizabeth van Romondt

Voyager arrives for the launching of Johnnie Walker "Odyssey" label

ORANJESTAD -- The Johnnie Walker Voyager, presenting their top of the line of famous fine whiskies, distributed exclusively on Aruba through Romar Trading, called at Oranjestad Harbor on Saturday, February 15. The sailboat bringing a taste of the newly issued Johnnie Walker label Odyssey is completing a round the world promotional journey, on the elegant 53-meter sailing yacht featured in the latest James Bond film "Skyfall."



The featured blends

The Voyager world journey symbolically parallels that of John Walker, creator of the brand over 180 years ago, and realistically of his son Alexander, who built the brand, brought it to the world, and perfected many recipes. The elegant Odyssey label is a very fine, three-malt blend perfected by their current Master Blender, based on Alexander's "secret recipes."

On board welcoming island media for an early morning tour and breakfast was Johnnie Walker Global Brand Ambassador Tom Jones and Diageo General Manager for the Caribbean and Central America, Cristina Diezhandino. Diageo is the distributors worldwide for Johnnie Walker,



Milton Harms and family

and their regional GM was joined by Christopher Crosbie, Brand Director and Victor Alvarez, Brand Representative.

Voyager has navigated the South Pacific, Asian and Indian Oceans, continuing through the Mediterranean and Adriatic, to finally end its tour of the Eastern Hemisphere in Edinburgh, Scotland, the home of Johnnie Walker. Aruba is its second port of call in the Caribbean after Trinidad and Tobago. Some of the staterooms are being used, as Mr. Jones has spend nearly 11 months of the past year onboard, but for visits, they have been turned into a Johnnie Walker Museum, with fascinating memorabilia from the companies long history.

The promised "epic and lux-

urious Blue Label events" paying tribute to the Walker family and their modern Super Deluxe blended whiskies, consisted of morning and afternoon events while on Aruba. Tom Jones welcomed local media early in the morning for a full history of company and its adventures and a fabulous brunch from the La Cabana culinary department. They also introduced the featured whiskies during the journey, Johnnie Walker Blue Label, Johnnie Walker Gold Label Reserve and Johnnie Walker Platinum. The morning group was treated to a special cocktail created for the regional voyage from the Blue Label, called "The Technique." It was a refreshing blend of Rose Tea, lemon juice, cinnamon infused agaves juice and orange bitters.

Continued on page 5



Global Brand Ambassador Tom Jones welcomes

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The mood was romantic and mellow at Paseo Herencia this Valentine's Day



A Valentine Dinner around the laza for Tiffney and John



Madison enjoys a dance with her favorite Valentine, her dad

NOORD -- Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall in Palm Beach loves the holidays, and lovers in particular! Those who came for a casual dinner at Iguana Joes, TGI Friday's or their new pizza spot, were

pleasantly surprised when their Valentine's Day dinner out was accompanied by music from world class saxophonist Jean Paul Carasquilla and his guest trio.

All of the aforementioned eateries surround the Plaza Padu, where the shopping and entertainment center frequently features special shows and events, aside from their regularly schedule Monday cultural show, Thursday fantasy production, and four times nightly Waltzing Waters presentation.

Tiffany and her husband John found it was just the right touch to a pleasant meal on the new TGI Friday's terrace, where both the food and mellow music hit the spot.

Madison, of Chicago, enjoyed an impromptu dance with her very favorite Valentine, her Dad, at the children's center in the mall, where a dino jump and cotton candy keep the kids well entertained.

Continued on page 4

Valentine's Day at La Vista was a tasty treat for all ages!



Roses for the ladies compliments of La Vista

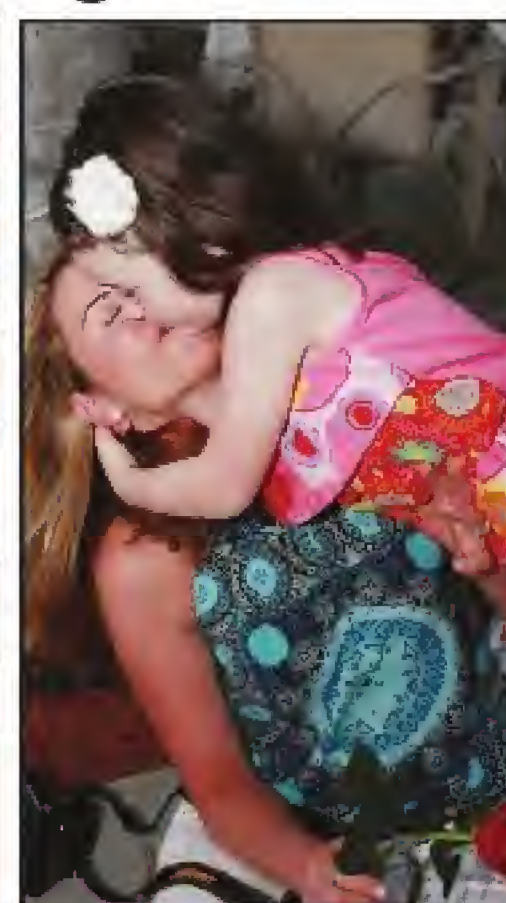


Karen and Michael of Vermont celebrate a silver anniversary

ORANJESTAD -- Those in the know often choose La Vista Restaurant in the Marriott Resort when they have a hankering for an Italian feast. Their nightly buffets feature various cuisines from "the boot" of Southern Europe, with a seeming unending choice of dishes, many freshly prepared to order at the pizza and pasta stations.

For Valentine's Day, they offered a "dinner for two" special, including mellow live entertainment and the gift of a red rose to all the ladies. Karen and Michael from Vermont, made it their choice for the day

dedicated to lovers, while celebrating their 25th year of wedded bliss. It was their first visit to Aruba, but they are sure it won't be the last!



Clare has a Valentine's Day kiss for her mommy.

When you are less than ten years old, whether you are a boy or girl, your favorite Valentine will always be your mommy, and so it was for Clare of Boston, who would rather cuddle with her mother, Kim, than anyone else.

No matter who you they gave their heart to, La Vista loyal patrons agreed there couldn't be a better place to do it than Aruba, especially while watching the sunset from the terrace and partaking of the restaurant's sumptuous buffet!





The first boutique just for kids
Located in the Ritz-Carlton Aruba
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Sundays from noon to 8pm

The mood was romantic and mellow...

Continued from page 3



these Danish lovebirds share some Haagen Dazs

You don't have to be from Denmark to enjoy Haagen-Dazs ice cream, but like the couple who was sharing a bit for a romantic dessert, who actually were from Denmark,

they knew the name was a nonsense word bearing no resemblance to their native language. The invention of the ice cream company's Brooklyn based creator, he made up the name to "sound Danish," but real Danes, it is just a nonsense word. This couple admitted, it didn't interfere with it tasting great.

For the ultimate in romance, "O" Restaurant on the second level of the mall, featured great entertainment with this year's Tumba King, Jirino Ridderstap and Aruba's premiere balladeer, as well as the venue's owner, Edjean Semeleer.

Paseo Herencia loves holidays and making them special for those visiting their shops, restaurants, theaters and clubs. Free entertainment is their specialty, on a regular bases, but particularly for special occasions!



Lunch Buffet
Saturday - Sunday
12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner
Monday - Sunday
6:00 - 11:00 p.m

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944



Aruba's 60th Carnival

It was a cuddly carnival celebration, with the Valentine's Day election of their Carnival Queen



Carnival Queen Lilliana Velasquez

ORANJESTAD -- Guests of The Mill Resort, and regular patrons of their famous Friday "Happy Hour" events got a one-two punch of fun and hilarity this past week, as the resort celebrated Valentine's Day, while electing their Carnival Queen 2014!

It was two-for-one for a special concoction from Mill Resort Master Mixologist Nelson, called "Be my Love." Fresh strawberries, vanilla ice cream and Bailey's Liquor, all whizzed in the blender and garnished with chocolate syrup, proved a popular and sweet surprise to share with one's Valentine.

The poolside bar embodied the festive ambiance of Aruba's carnival, as the staff conducted their annual queen election. Bidding farewell to



The Judges



Valentine's Day included Be My Love cocktails

last year's winner, a parade of four lovely candidates made the rounds of the spectators and judges, also appearing in costume and performing a speech, as the actual queens must do. The majority of panel of judges consisted of guests of the resort, plus The Morning News' Executive Sales Rep, Elly Erasmus.

Jeanice Lacle, Caroline Baarh, Lilliana Vleasquez and Michinana Bergrok compete for the coveted title, but it was Lilliana who claimed the crown. First runner up was Michinana, and a surprise was sprung on one of the organiz-

ers of the event, Sonia Nobrega, when she was crowned the resort's first Mrs. Carnival.

Guests thoroughly enjoyed this exceptional Valentine's Day, where they were able to indulge and truly feel part of Aruba's great carnival. THE MORNING NEWS congratulates their new Carnival Queen, may she have a glorious reign!



Resort Guests are in the spirit of the moment



Bert and Yolanda from Holland are ready for Carnival

Voyager arrives for the launching of Johnnie Walker "Odyssey" label

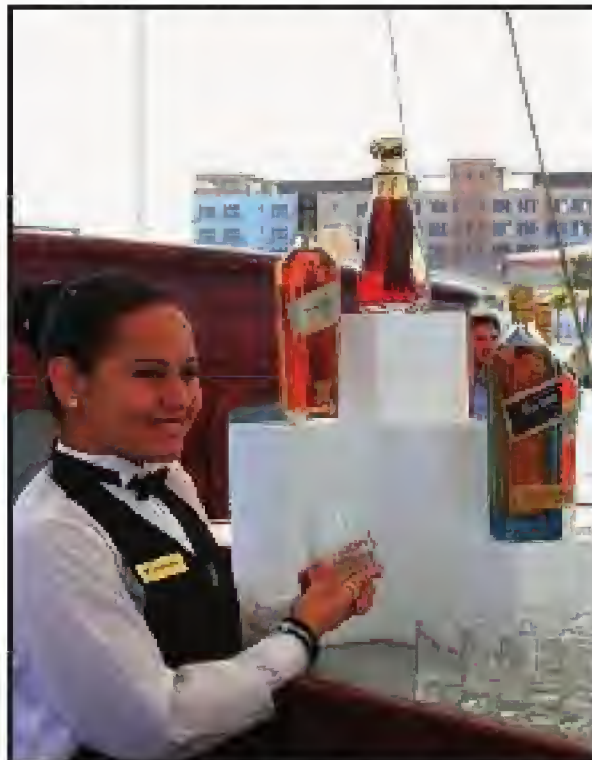
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Betto of Romar Trading and Levaughn Flynn Brand PR Manager



Andy Lacle of Romar admires historic memorabilia.



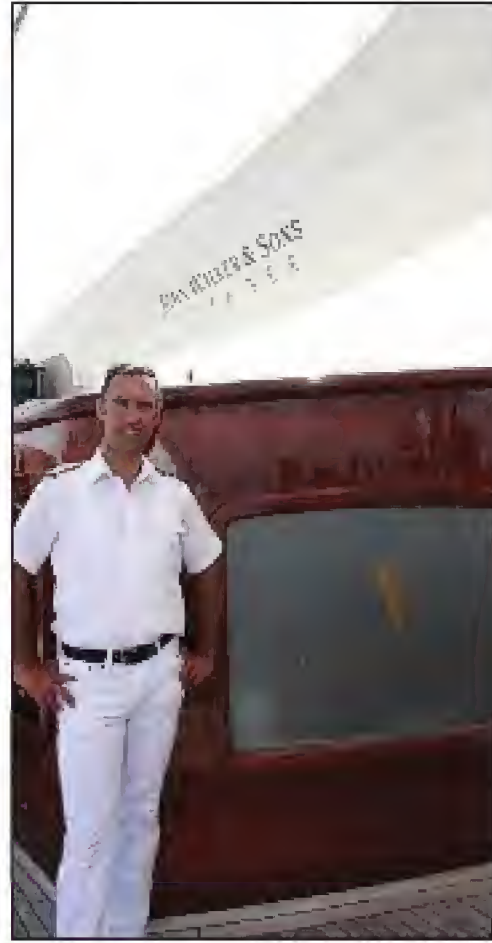
The Johnny walker special sampler

In the evening, island dignitaries, including Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and his wife, Doina, were welcomed by Romar Trading Managing Director Milton Harms along side Tom Jones for an elegant event ending in a spectacular fireworks display. Entertainment featured the smooth sounds of famed jazz percussionist Carlos Bislip and his quartet. The welcoming drink was the Johnnie Walker Gold Reserve, served with orange zest encapsulated in ice. Both creations showcased an ideal manner in which to best bring out the unique flavors of the special blends.

During the evening, there was an invitation-only tasting of the special label Odyssey, which is being offered at \$1,000 a bottle. It is contained in a stunning handcrafted crystal decanter specifically designed to gently rock with a boat's motion, so connoisseurs of such fine whiskies can enjoy it on their luxurious yachts, without concern of it sliding off a tabletop and breaking.

Tom Jones had explained that the distinctive square bottles for which Johnnie Walker is known was a result of "necessity being the mother of invention," as round bottles of whisky often broke when transported overseas in clipper ships. The square bottles fit nearly into the wooden crates, so preserving the valuable liquor. The famously angled labels on the bottle were also necessary to fit over the square bottles and contain all the information that assured buyers they were receiving fine, authentic blended whiskies from Johnnie Walker distillers.

From Aruba, Voyager will sail to Puerto Rico, and will complete its tour in April after calling at Anguilla, Dominican Republic and ports in Colom-



Captain Murak Corel

bia and Venezuela. Those interested can follow its journey on Tom Jones' personal Twitter accounting: Twitter <https://twitter.com/whiskyexplorer> and Instagram: @whiskyexplorer.

Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

Entrees: Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea

Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps with rice and vegetables

Breaded Chicken Breast

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Glitz has a winner for the ultimate Valentine's Day gift

Continued from page 2



A great Valentine's Day crowd



All finalists with casino owner Elizabeth van Romondt and GM Chris Scott

In his wildest dreams, he never imagined he could possibly be the winner, but lo and behold, he was made a believer when his pressing the magic button brought the car to life.

The jubilant young man was congratulated by his fellow contenders and Glitz Casino staff. Leonard proved an attractive fit for the bright red car, as he slid behind the wheel to savor the moment. Though he works at a car rental, Leonard had had no car of his own, so is particularly please by this fabulous turn of events. "This has to be my best Valentine's Day ever," he commented. "Now my heart is pounding!"



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11 S.African miners rescued, none still trapped

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Eleven men who became trapped in an illegal gold mine in South Africa were rescued yesterday, but an unknown number remained underground fearing arrest.

The men, who were all uninjured, were immediately handed over to police. Rescue officials said many others were now able to leave the mine but had refused to come out while officials were present, fearing arrest.

"We managed to retrieve 11 young men. We believe they are South Africans, they have been treated and handed over to the police," municipal emergency and rescue services official Rogger Mamaila told AFP.

"Yes, there is a possibility that there could be more, but we don't know and we are not going to send any of our rescuers down there."

Around 30 miners who

were trapped at a shallow level had earlier told rescuers from a private operator ER24 that there were 200 others stuck at a level underneath them.

That was never confirmed, however, with local municipal officials insisting there were only around 30 people trapped.

Mamaila declared the rescue operation closed around two hours after the 11 were brought to the surface.

"Should there somebody who was not brave enough to come out, at least we removed the boulders and have created a free passageway," said Mamaila. "It's for them to decide when to come out."

Municipal officials said the workers went down on Saturday into the mine using a shaft dug illegally behind a cricket stadium in the Benoni district east of Johannesburg.

But police suspect some of them had been underground

for up 12 days.

Many are thought to be former mine workers who are familiar with the geography of the mines and can walk for several kilometres underground and possibly come out through other exit points, according to police.

They became trapped when large rocks fell and blocked the entrance to the shaft, and were able to climb out when rescuers using excavation equipment cleared the way.

Police on patrol nearby discovered that the men were trapped in the mine when a passer-by said he had heard people screaming for help.

South Africa's gold output has steadily decreased over the past 40 years, sliding from top global producer to world number six.

It produced 167,235 kilograms of gold in 2012.

Berline: Syria regime 'not serious' about negotiations

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's foreign minister said yesterday the Syrian government was not serious about negotiating, after the latest round of peace talks ended without progress.

The talks' failure "shows once again that (President Bashar al-Assad) and his people are not seriously interested in negotiations," Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a brief statement.

The Syrian authorities are interested only "in consolidating their hold on power," he said.

"The suffering of Syrians and the future of the country

clearly plays no role," added Steinmeier, calling on the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution to end war crimes in Syria.

A second round of peace talks between the Syrian regime and the opposition broke off Saturday in Geneva, with no date set for a third round.

Britain, France and the United States, which back the opposition coalition against the Syrian regime and have regularly called for Assad to stand down, have blamed the Syrian government for sinking the talks.

Fla. man faces 60 years for shooting at teens

JACKSONVILLE — Michael David Dunn faces at least 60 years inside a prison cell for firing 10 bullets toward a group of teenagers in a sport-utility vehicle during an escalating argument over booming rap music in a gasoline station parking lot.

But jurors deadlocked on whether Dunn murdered Jordan Davis, 17, when he shot at the SUV. Three of the nine bullets that hit the car struck Davis, who was in the rear passenger seat. The gunfire missed the other teens.

After almost 32 hours of deliberations over four days -- on the eve of what would have been Davis's 19th birthday -- a Duval County jury convicted Dunn on three counts of second-degree attempted murder Saturday night. Assistant State Attorney Erin Wolfson said

each count carries a 20-year minimum mandatory sentence. These sentences must run consecutively, said Jackelyn Barnard, spokeswoman for the State Attorney's Office.

Jurors also convicted Dunn, 47, of shooting or throwing a deadly missile. This felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison, Wolfson said.

The trial was the latest Florida case to raise questions about self-defense and race; Dunn is white and the teens were black. It came six months after George Zimmerman was acquitted of any crime for fatally shooting 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, about 125 miles south of Jacksonville. The Dunn trial was prosecuted by the same State Attorney's Office as was the Zimmerman case.

The case is not likely over.



NOPALERA : Two former "punteros" (informants) of the Templar Knights drug cartel pose during an interview with AFP at la Nopalera community, Michoacan state, Mexico, on February 15, 2014. Presently the two young men are part of the community's self-defense group. Mexican federal forces have taken over police duties in some 20 towns in the restive state of Michoacan, where vigilante groups are fighting a drug cartel. Michoacan, where much of the population lives in poverty, has become the most pressing security issue facing Mexico President Enrique Pena Nieto, who inherited a bloody war on drugs. (AFP PHOTO)

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Venezuelan police hunt opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez

CARACAS -- Venezuelan police have searched the houses of opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez and his parents.

Mr Lopez, who has organised recent anti-government protests, has not been seen in public since Wednesday, when three men were shot dead at the end of opposition marches in Caracas. An arrest warrant has been issued against him.

President Nicolas Maduro has accused Mr Lopez of inciting violence as part of a coup plot.

Mr Lopez, 42, is a former mayor of the Chacao district, in eastern Caracas. He used his Twitter account to call on students to carry on with peaceful demonstrations.

"To the country and the students, who I've always admired and supported, the battle is in the streets, but without violence," he posted.

He also sent a direct message to the Venezuelan president: "Maduro, you are a coward. You are not going to force me or my family to bow down."

On Saturday, police clashed with a group of demonstrators at the end of an opposition march in the eastern neigh-



More than 20 people were injured in the violence on Saturday.

bourhood of Chacao.

They fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. Activists hurled stones. More than 20 people were injured.

Thousands of government supporters also took to the streets of Caracas on Saturday in a march "for peace and against fascism".

Mr Maduro addressed the crowd and renewed accusations against the opposition.

He accused Mr Lopez of ordering "all these violent kids, which he trained, to destroy the prosecutor's office, half of Caracas to then go into hiding".

On Saturday, the US Secre-

tary of State, John Kerry, issued a statement expressing concern by the rising tensions in Venezuela.

"We are particularly alarmed by reports that the Venezuelan government has arrested or detained scores of anti-government protestors and issued an arrest warrant for opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez," read the statement.

The main opposition grievances are high inflation, crime and the shortage of some staples.

The government has blamed the shortages on "saboteurs" and "profit-hungry corrupt businessmen".

Britain gets respite from flooding crisis

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's flooding crisis eased yesterday with the arrival of drier weather following a series of fierce storms, while the government pledged to have the army conduct a rapid inspection of flood defences.

The country is counting the cost of storms that have claimed several lives and left tens of thousands of homes without power.

Despite the drier weather conditions, swathes of Britain remain on high alert as people struggle to protect homes from floodwaters, which are still expected to rise.

Britain's Environment Agency (EA) has 16 severe flood warnings in place for the south west and the Thames Valley, with almost 150 flood warnings and 230 flood alerts.

"The response that we are delivering is a proper response... but we are dealing with an extraordinary set of weather events. It has taken some time to mobilise the resources," Defence Minister Philip Hammond told the BBC yesterday.

He admitted that the government could have called on the army to assist much

earlier.

Hammond said more than 3,000 troops were currently deployed to help, with another 5,000 on standby.

He added that the Royal Engineers would be involved to do a "very rapid inspection of all the nation's flood defences".

"We are going to try and do in five weeks what would be a two-year program of inspection, just to assess the level of damage."

"This series of weather events over the last two months has caused some quite serious damage to our infrastructure -- flood defences, rail infrastructure, road infrastructure -- and we have got to assess that. "There clearly needs to be continued defences in flood defences."

Prime Minister David Cameron hosted another meeting of Cobra, the government's emergency response committee, yesterday and warned of more potential flooding.

"Some rain is expected at times next week," he said. "This additional rainfall will add to high groundwater levels and will impact slow feed rivers over the days ahead."

"Extensive efforts to protect and repair properties and infrastructure are ongoing by many thousands of people among agencies, the military and the emergency services," he added.

At least three people were killed in separate incidents in Ireland, Britain and the English Channel after violent winds and heavy rain swept in from the Atlantic on Friday.

Pulling down power lines and disrupting transport networks across the region, the storm brought fresh misery to flood-hit communities in Britain, parts of which are suffering their wettest start to the year for 250 years.

The Ukraine announces amnesty for protesters in opposition win



KIEV : AFP photo shows a backhoe loader tractor of the Kiev communal services removing an opposition barricade on Grushevsky street in order to allow limited car traffic in accordance with an arrangement between anti-government opposition and the Ukrainian powers, in Kiev, on February 16, 2014. Ukraine announced yesterday that protesters arrested in anti-government unrest rocking the country would be granted an amnesty, in a minor victory for the opposition after it ended its occupation of Kiev city hall. The evacuation of city hall was one of the conditions set in an amnesty law approved by Yanukovich at the beginning of the month, promising to heed opposition demands to release detainees and drop charges against them -- but only if some parts of Kiev were evacuated. Ending the occupation of city hall had come under strong criticism earlier yesterday at a mass rally on Independence Square.

Mother's milk made to order for boys or girls



CHICAGO (AFP) - Mothers may say they don't care whether they have a son or a daughter, but their breast milk says otherwise.

"Mothers are producing different biological recipes for sons and daughters," said Katie Hinde, an evolutionary biologist at Harvard University.

Studies in humans, monkeys and other mammals have found a variety of differences in both the content and the quantity of milk produced.

One common theme: baby boys often get milk that is richer in fat or protein -- and thus energy -- while baby girls often get more milk.

There are a lot of theories as to why this happens, Hinde said Friday at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting.

Rhesus monkeys, for instance, tend to produce more calcium in the milk they feed to daughters who inherit social status from their mothers.

"It could be adaptive in that it allows mothers to give

more milk to daughters which is going to accelerate their develop and allow them to begin reproducing at early ages," Hinde said.

Males don't need to reach sexual maturity as quickly as females because the only limit on how often they reproduce is how many females they can win over.

The females also nurse for longer than male monkeys, who spend more time playing off on their own and thus need more energetically dense milk.

It's not yet clear why human mothers produce such different milk for their babies, Hinde said.

There is evidence, however, that the stage is set while the baby is still in utero.

Hinde published a study last week that showed that the sex of the fetus influences the milk production of cows long after they are separated from their calves (typically within hours of the birth.)

The study of 1.49 million cows found that, over the course of two 305 day lactation periods, they produced an average of 445 kilos (908 pounds) more milk when they had female calves than when they had bulls.

They also found no difference in the protein or fat content of the milk produced for heifers than for bulls.

Much remains to be understood about how breast milk impacts infant development in humans, Hinde said.



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Tuna study reveals oil pollution causes heart problems

CHICAGO (AFP) - The reason people have more heart attacks when air pollution levels rise may have been revealed by a study on the impact of the BP oil spill on tuna, scientists said Thursday.

Heart problems in humans and fish have long been linked to air pollution and oil spills respectively. But researchers had not yet sorted out exactly how the toxic compounds found in oil interfere with heart cells.

Interest in the problem in-

creased when the devastating 2010 explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon drilling rig unleashed four million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico during spawning season.

Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Stanford University set out to understand what happened to the hearts of tuna which had been spawned near the spill.

They collected oil samples and young fish from the site and studied the impact of both fresh and 'weathered' oil on the fish heart muscles.

The researchers found that chemicals in the oil blocked the potassium and calcium channels that regulate heart rate and rhythm.

The basic mechanisms occurring there are vital processes in cardiac cells in all vertebrates -- including humans.

"There's lots of evidence that what's in particulate matter -- the exhaust coming out of our cars -- is similar to what we're measuring here in crude oil," said study author Barbara Block, a biologist at Stanford University.

"We should be looking at the impact of air pollution on cardiac excitation coupling and I suspect we'll find the exact same response as we find here."

The discovery could have impacts beyond the regulation of oil pollution, said coauthor at Nat Scholz, who heads the ecotoxicology program at a NOAA fisheries center in Seattle.

"These results on the NOAA side are going to have the potential to go beyond crude oil because there's so many other sources of PAH (toxic hydrocarbons) in coastal watersheds," he told reporters at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"There's tie-ins from this to urban storm water runoff and pollution from other sources."

- Bad news for Gulf seafood -

The study also presented dismal prospects for the Gulf's commercial fishing industry and for the region's ecological health.

The breeding population of the bluefin tuna -- which can live 35 years and grow to a whopping 1,400 pounds (650 kilograms) -- had already fallen by 80 percent before the spill.

The latest stock assessment found that the bluefin tuna spawning population had fallen to just 36 percent of the 1970 baseline population.

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."



Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services pro-

gram. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com

for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

'Juno' star Ellen Page says she's gay



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ellen Page, the fresh-faced star of the 2007 sleeper hit "Juno," declared at a press conference late Friday that she is gay.

"I'm here today because I am gay," Page, 26, said at an event for homosexual teens in Las Vegas hosted by the Human Rights Campaign, a pro-gay rights group.

"I am tired of hiding and I am tired of lying by omission. I suffered for years because I was scared to be out. My spirit suffered, my mental health suffered and my relationships suffered," she said.

Page said that she felt "a personal obligation and a social responsibility" to come out as gay.

The Canadian-born Page was nominated for an Oscar for her role as a pregnant teenager in "Juno."

She also appeared in the 2009 roller derby comedy "Whip It," the 2010 science fiction hit "Inception" opposite Leonardo DiCaprio, and the 2012 Woody Allen comedy "To Rome with Love."

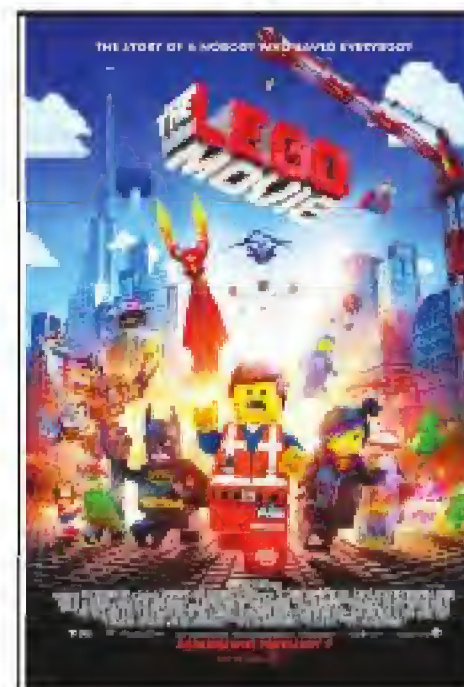
Page is also set to appear in the 2014 mid-year blockbuster "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

"We deserve to experience love fully, equally, without shame and without compromise," she told the crowd.

Page also decried the "pervasive stereotypes about masculinity and femininity that define how we are all supposed to act, dress and speak. They serve no one."

In her speech, Page praised other prominent people who have declared they are gay, including American football college star Michael Sam, who could become the first open gay player in the US National Football League.

Box office dominance proves child's play for 'Lego Movie'



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "The Lego Movie" notched a second straight week atop the North American box office, earning nearly \$49 million this weekend, industry estimates showed on Sunday.

Box office dominance is proving to be child's play for the Warner Brothers movie, which is based on the popular kids' toys. It has raked in \$129 million since its opening, box office tracker Ex-

hibitor Relations said.

"About Last Night," a romantic comedy starring ubiquitous actor Kevin Hart, took second place in its debut. The film about a lady's man who falls for a woman even bawdier than he is, had \$27 million in ticket sales.

Close behind was a reboot of "Robocop," which sold \$21.5 million in tickets for third place. The update of the 1987 sci-fi film stars Samuel L. Jackson and Michael Keaton.

Fourth place went to "The Monuments Men," directed by and starring Hollywood leading man George Clooney. The film about a World War II platoon tasked with recovering art masterpieces looted by the Nazis earned \$15 million.

"Endless Love," a movie about teenaged love, debuted in fifth place this Valentine's Day weekend, with \$13.4 million in box office receipts.

Chemicals may be eroding child IQs: disputed study

PARIS (AFP) - Two public health experts warned Saturday about the stunting effects that a wide array of industrial chemicals, including toothpaste ingredient fluoride, may be having on child brain development, in a report some called alarmist.

The pair, Philippe Grandjean of the Harvard School of Public Health and Philip Landrigan from New York's Icahn School of Medicine, said the number of chemicals known to hinder child brain development have doubled from six in 2006 to 12 today. In a 2006 review, the pair had identified ethanol, lead, methylmercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, arsenic and toluene as "developmental neurotoxicants".

Since then, studies have shown another six to be dangerous: manganese, fluoride, chlorpyrifos, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, tetrachloroethylene and polybrominated diphenyl ethers, said the new review. These are used in everything from pesticides, dry cleaning chemicals and flame retardants.

Fluoride is commonly used to prevent tooth cavities, and added to tap water in many countries.

Brain development disorders like autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and dyslexia already affect one in six children today, and there was "strong evidence" of a link between chemical exposure and an increase in diagnoses, the team wrote in a review in the *Lancet Neurology* medical journal.

"Our very great concern is that children worldwide are being exposed to unrecognised toxic chemicals that are silently eroding intelligence, disrupting behaviours, truncating future achievements and damaging societies, perhaps more seriously in developing countries."

They urged mandated testing of all existing industrial chemicals as well as new ones entering the market, and said stronger controls could save billions of dollars in toxicity and poisoning costs.

Other experts, however, said the paper had limitations and was based on an array of previously published surveys of varying reliability.

"Because the paper lacks rigour, it is impossible to assess the validity of the authors' claims, many of which seem highly speculative."

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Skype-type money swaps bad news for banks?



TALLINN (AFP) - Irked by high bank fees on international money transfers, two Estonian IT whizzes who helped engineer Skype and Paypal have hatched Transferwise, a global Internet platform coordinating currency swaps between individuals.

"Hey, hidden fees. Your secret's out," taunts the site founded by Taavet Hinrikus, 32, and partner Kristo Kaarmann, 33.

Transferwise has been giving banks a run for their money since its 2011 launch, even attracting applause from tycoon Richard Branson, who sings its praises as a low cost business tool for start-ups.

"They are dramatically lowering the cost of transferring money overseas, by effectively matching people and companies in different countries who want the opposite currency," the Virgin billionaire said in a recent blog post.

The marriage of IT ingenuity and financial savvy also garnered a prestigious 2013 World Summit Award (WSA), a United Nations-backed prize for outstanding web-based business innova-

tions.

Transferwise offers international money transfers for a fee of just one British pound (1.2 euros, \$1.6) for all transfers under £200 and 0.5 percent for everything above -- a tenth of what banks typically charge.

At that price, business is booming with the company processing around £1 million per day.

While European rules specify that euro to euro transfers must be free of charge, banks fees on international money transfers between currencies range between three and six percent with exchange rates that routinely favour banks.

The new platform boasts customers from across Europe and is most popular in Britain, France and Spain, mostly among working or retired expats plus small and medium-sized businesses looking to cut operating costs.

It's also eyeing expansion in Asia, Africa and the US, offering services for the Indian rupee, South African rand as well as US, Australian, Hong Kong and Singapore dollars.

Co-founder Hinrikus was

Skype's director of strategy until 2008, where he joined as the first employee. Kaarmann worked as a consultant for banks with Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers before setting up Transferwise.

- Cashing-in on algorithms

The idea took shape when Hinrikus found himself living in London and spending in pounds, but earning euros at his job with Skype at its headquarters in his native Estonia.

Kaarmann, meanwhile was earning pounds in London, but paying a mortgage for his home in the Estonian capital Tallinn in euros.

"We found that we had the opposite currency requirements, so we started to exchange it among ourselves at the actual mid-market rate -- that's the exchange rate you see in the papers, not the inflated rate you'll be offered by your bank," Hinrikus told AFP.

"Soon we realised we had saved a fortune by not moving the money across borders and that perhaps it could be a

big business idea. A few years later Transferwise was born," he added.

A few algorithms later, they had come up with the programming to connect people with complementary currency needs.

Hinrikus explains that a customer in Britain who wants to send money home to Estonia can put their pounds on a Transferwise account.

The company then spots a customer in Estonia who wants to send an equivalent amount of money to the UK.

Rather than actually sending the money across borders, Transferwise then simply pays it out to the desired recipient in each country, for the minimal fee.

While concerns have been raised over the potential abuse of the system to launder money, Transferwise spokeswoman Huggins points out the service is certified by Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

"This means that the business is subject to the same rules as commercial banks in the UK," she explained.

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Official: Completion date of Panama canal work at risk



Colon : View of the Panama Canal, in Colon, 100 km from Panama City, on February 12, 2014. The Canal administration announced that there are partial agreements with the Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPC) consortium, which is in charge of the expansion. The works would now finish on December, 2015. Negotiations over who should pay for extra costs for upgrading the Panama Canal had collapsed, putting the project and up to 10,000 jobs at risk, Spanish company Sacyr, which is leading the works had announced. (AFP PHOTO)

Foreign banks bracing for tough U.S. Fed capital rules

WASHINGTON - Overseas banks look set to win only minor concessions when the Federal Reserve signs off on new capital rules next week, as they become increasingly resigned to the fact that the cost of doing business in the United States will go up.

The Fed, whose board of governors meets on Tuesday, will require overseas banks to hold as much capital in the United States as their local rivals.

The reform is designed to address concerns that U.S. taxpayers will need to foot the bill if European and Asian regulators treat U.S. subsidiaries with low priority if they need to rescue one of their banks.

Foreign banks with sizeable operations on Wall Street such as Deutsche Bank and Barclays have pushed back hard against the plan because it means they will need to transfer costly capital from Europe.

Fed Governor Daniel Tarullo, in charge of financial regulation, has given little sign the Fed will relent, however, and the financial industry expects no wholesale change from when the proposed rule came out in December 2012.

"(He) certainly does not suggest that they're moving toward greater leniency, at least for the largest institutions," said Greg Lyons, a partner working on banking regulation at law firm Debevoise &

Plimpton in New York.

The Fed declined to comment.

Europe and the United States have squabbled over how to apply their rules to overseas banking units, and the Fed's plan, as well as its tougher reading of globally agreed capital rules, have widened the rift.

The Fed proposal requires the largest overseas banks to set up an intermediate holding company in the United States that will be subject to the same capital, leverage and other requirements as U.S. bank holding companies.

This would give banks less flexibility to move money around than under the current rules, which allow banks to use capital legally allocated in their home country. In some cases, the U.S. rules are tougher than elsewhere.

One of the changes the Fed's five-member board may make when it votes on the final rule is to lower the number of banks that need to comply with the strictest requirements, several people working in the industry said.

"We believe ... that they ... carved it back to those foreign banks that have \$50 billion in assets here in the U.S.," said one industry source.

So far, the cutoff was for U.S. units with \$10 billion in assets, and the tweak would mean only the largest 18 for-

eign banks would fall under the final rule, a sharp drop from the 26 under the proposal, this source said.

The United States used to rely on foreign supervisors to watch overseas banks, allowing them to hold less capital than their domestic counterparts, on the assumption that the parent company was sufficiently capitalized.

But that policy ended after the Fed extended hundreds of billions of dollars in emergency loans to overseas banks during the financial crisis, which sparked fears foreign banks were not sufficiently capitalized in the United States.

Europe has warned of tit-for-tat action, with European Union financial services commissioner Michel Barnier saying in October the bloc would draw up similar measures if the Fed pushed ahead with its plans.

But Washington, worried that Europe's plans to shield taxpayers from having to bail out a bank when the next crisis happens aren't as far advanced as those in America, has taken an uncompromising stance on such issues.

And even some bankers see benefits in the new rule, given the often-acrimonious past problems when different countries had to save a bank with operations across borders.

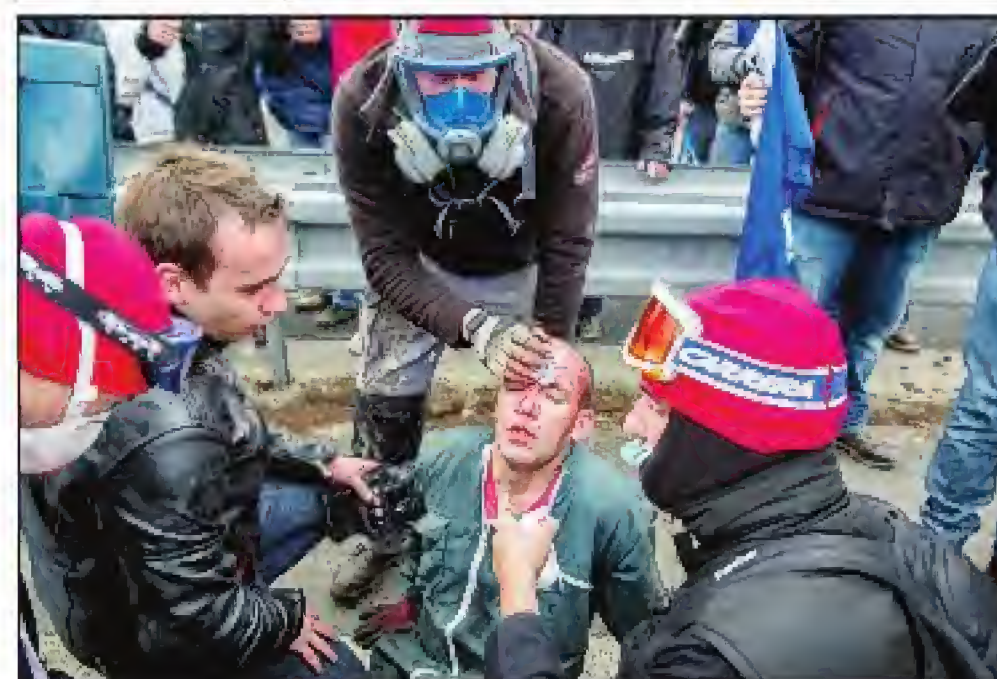
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BRECH : Protesters, part of the "bonnets rouges" movement, assist an injured man as they gather on a highway near Brech, western France, to protest a controversial tax on heavy vehicles, on the weekend. Four people were slightly injured while three others were arrested during the demonstration, part of a recent series of protests against the environmental "ecotax" on commercial vehicles carrying cargo of more than 3.5 tonnes, which critics say unfairly penalises remote areas dependent on deliveries by road freight. (AFP PHOTO)



TINLEY PARK: Handguns are offered for sale at Freddie Bear Sports in Tinley Park, Illinois. Nationwide sales of guns and ammunition have dropped about 50 percent from the same period last year when dealers had difficulty keeping their stores stocked as customers bought up supplies fearing increased regulation and restrictions after a series highly publicized shootings. (AFP PHOTO)

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
02/16/2014				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.84
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	3.02
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	201.17
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	246.58
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.13
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.28
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.77
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	176.79
(per 10,000)				
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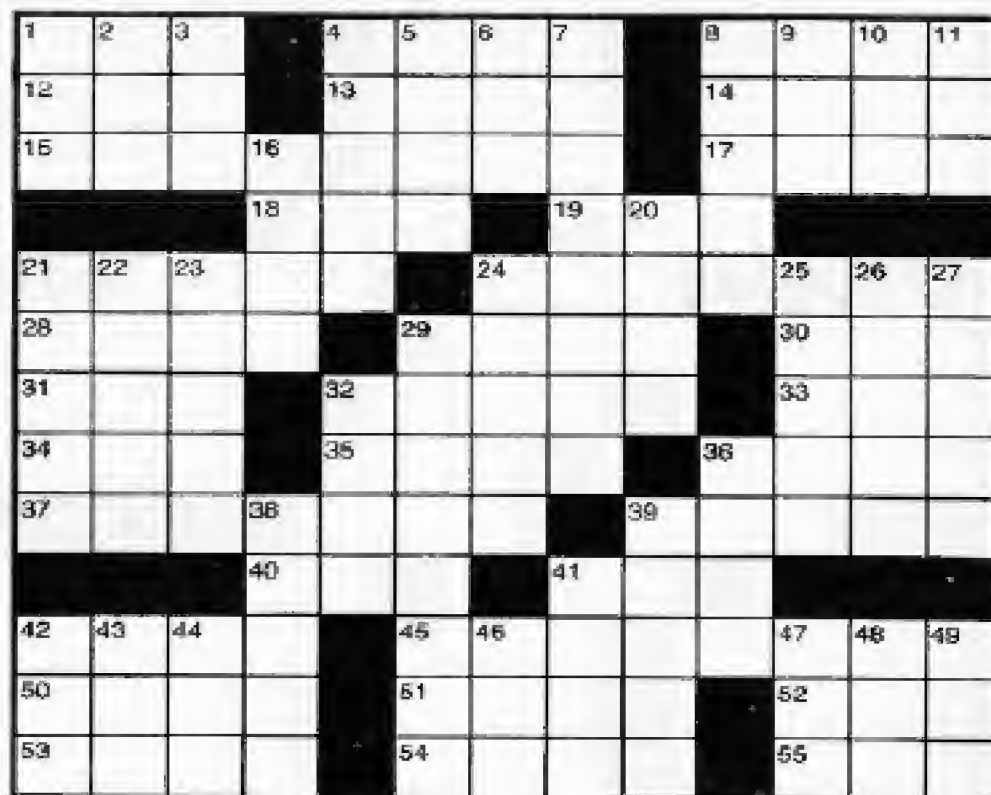


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ACROSS

1. Churchill's title
4. "___ Dust"
8. Stuffing herb
12. "...man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
13. Sprinkler attachment
14. Arrange
15. Yellow flower
17. Taps lightly
18. Car named after Ransom E. Olds
19. "The Greatest"
21. Orchard members
24. Bric-a-brac holder
28. Officer's helper
29. Enthusiastic
30. Cup edge
31. Grid coups (abbr.)
32. Correct
33. CD-___
34. Years lived
35. Orange drink brand
36. "___ and Soul"
37. Chooses
39. Opens to view
40. "Mack ___ Knife"



41. IM provider
42. Steve of the NBA
45. Rainy day accessory
50. Have a flu symptom
51. Movie part on a clock
52. Midafternoon, slippery
53. Slippery banana part
54. Garden need
55. Address bk. line
5. Commotion (hyph.)
6. "Just ___ suspected!" (2 wds.)
7. Comparing
8. Small twig
9. Pie ___ mode (2 wds.)
10. Empty space
11. O'Toole's rank (abbr.)
16. Unfettered
20. "Shane" actor
21. London goodbyes (2 wds.)
22. Crest
23. Ford failure
24. Removes bumps
25. Mistake at Fenway
26. ___ Janeiro (2 wds.)
27. TV awards
29. Novices
32. ___ A Sketch
36. Cotton bundle
38. Singer Merman
39. Drilled
41. Ready, willing, and ___
42. Snooze
43. Heroic pilot
44. Pronoun
46. Bossy Stooze
47. Illuminated
48. Tell untruths
49. Have woes

DOWN

1. Turf
2. Novelist Levin
3. English fliers (abbr.)
4. Loafers, e.g.

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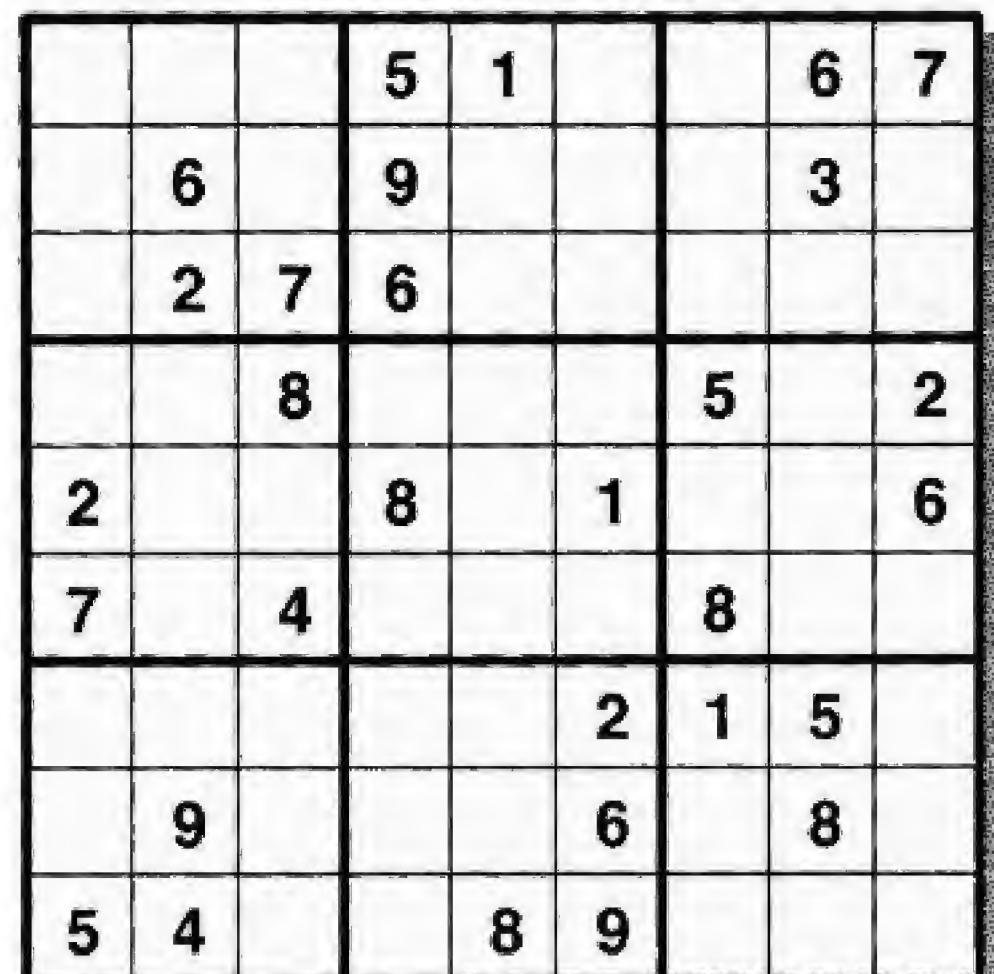
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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8	3	1	9	5	2	6	4	7
6	5	1	2	7	8	3	9	4
1	6	8	9	9	2	7	6	3
9	7	5	1	2	8	6	3	4
2	4	9	6	8	7	3	1	5
5	1	8	9	6	9	4	2	7
8	6	7	2	6	5	9	1	3
4	9	2	7	1	6	8	3	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Acqua Condominium Aruba announces that construction has been progressing at a brisk pace



The East Tower, overlooking Palm Beach boasts 208 condos, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views. The building is simply awaiting the windows and a few

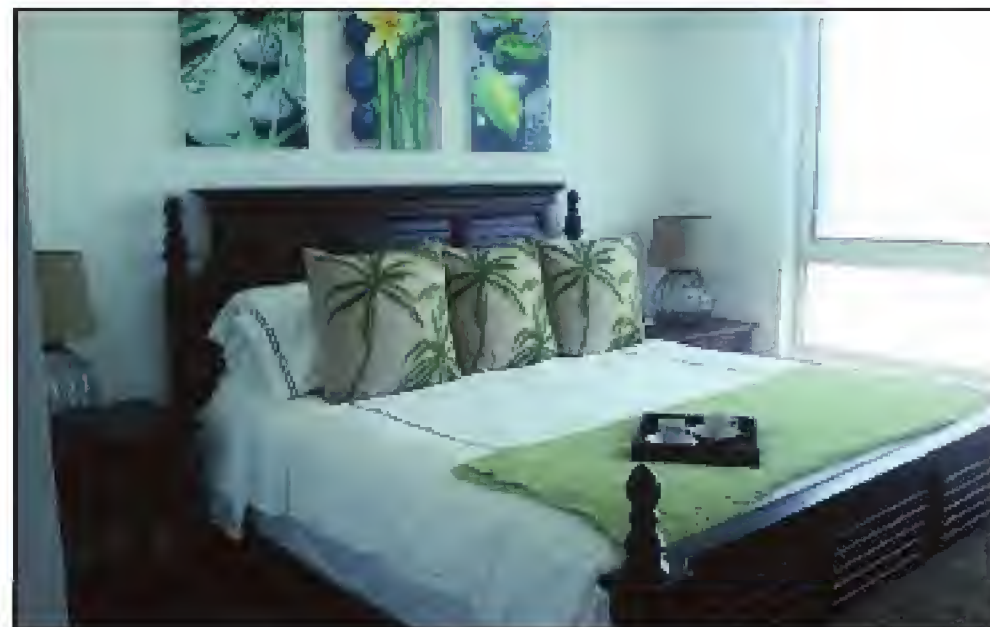
finishing touches, to conclude construction, very possibly by the end of this year. Following the completion of the elegant club house, the tropical landscaped pool and the spacious parking lots, the condos will be delivered to

their proud new owners. Ground has been cleared for the North Tower, which will follow as soon as the East Tower is completed.

A spokesperson for Acqua Condo Aruba reports that the project is receiving tremendous attention, particularly for the winter months. Snow-birds longing to reside in a vacation home on Aruba are now able to visualize this dream coming true, in a manner that leaves them utterly care free when not in residence.

Making the decision to purchase and acting on it quickly, was recently made even more imperative. In November of 2010, the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment to a building moratorium for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project, on property land, in the island's most-desired location.

In view of the moratorium news, and the project's lucrative position, developers were compelled to discontinue the pre-construction



discounts. Nevertheless, other purchase incentives have introduced.

Prices start at \$ 296,800 for a 2-bedroom/2 bathroom apartment.

Paying cash will allow the buyer to obtain this very same unit for only \$ 222,600 -remarkable savings!

Other incentives: The opportunity to profit from your purchase is also available to buyers when they place their unit in a rental pool year.

If the image of Aqua Condominium tugs at your heart-strings, you are invited to visit the sales gallery and the two elegant model-suites available for viewing, fully fin-

ished with luxurious touches and high-end amenities.

The sales center is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. non-stop, and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You are invited to meet the sales team who will guide you through the purchase of the stylish condo of your dreams, allowing you to return to Aruba as often as you wish.

You will find the website very helpful.

Take a virtual tour and garner info regarding all legal document, floor plans, furnishings and finishing at: www.acquaruba.com

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

[queensaruba.com/](http://www.thequeensaruba.com/).

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.

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Who won what at the Winter Olympics



Kjetil Jansrud of Norway skis during the Alpine Skiing Men's Super-G

SOCHI (AFP)

MEN

-Alpine skiing - super-G
Norwegian Kjetil Jansrud caused a sensational upset in the demanding men's super-G, pipping Olympic favourites including US ski star Bode Miller for the gold. The 28-year-old Norwegian, who won downhill bronze last week, mastered the challenging course in a

relay, completing a famous double for the nordic nation after also winning the women's event.

Victory made Sweden the first country in 42 years to win both cross country relays at the same Games.

Swedish anchorman Marcus Hellner was able to enjoy a victorious run into the finish, waving the Swedish flag attached to one of his ski poles, crossing the line for a total time of 1hr 28min 42sec.

Russia finally showed some cross country form to take silver in 1hr 29min 9.3sec with France's quartet celebrating a surprise bronze.

WOMEN

Snowboard - cross

Eva Samkova of the Czech Republic, who competes with a bizarre moustache painted onto her face, stormed to snowboard cross gold.

The 20-year-old, who sports the moustache as a good luck charm, led from start to finish in the final to take the title ahead of Canada's world number one Dominique Maltais.

France's Chloe Trespeuch took bronze after avoiding a late collision between Michela Moioli of Italy and Alexandra Jekova of Bulgaria.

Vancouver gold medallist Maelle Ricker of Canada crashed out in the quarter-finals while American three-time world champion Lindsey Jacobellis exited in the semi-finals.

note -- men's biathlon 15km mass start postponed to Monday due to fog

No pressure for Lolo in winter wonderland



ROSA KHUTOR (AFP) - Former US Olympic hurdler Lolo Jones admitted Sunday that she is relishing the pressure-free atmosphere of her new life as a bobsleigh contender at the Winter Games.

The 31-year-old Jones, who is a brakewoman for USA-3 for pilot Jazmine Fenlator, was a controversial selection with some critics claiming she had been selected for her good looks and high media profile.

But she shrugged off the stormy build-up by helping Fenlator to the 10th fastest time in training on Sunday ahead of Wednesday's final.

"So far it's really nice here and it's not that cold so it's a kind of Summer Games actually," said Jones. "But there Games are different, completely different."

"There's no pressure. It's my pilot's first Olympics. She's all about just having a good experience and just executing."

"And for me it's just all about being the best teammate and giving her the best, most amazing push and velocity that she could ever ask or hope for."

"These Games, I'd say it's fun just because you're riding in a bobsleigh. I don't have to drive the bobsleigh but I know what it's like to have pressure and to think about 10 different things."

Jones, who boasts a Twitter account which has over 380,000 followers, said on the eve of the Games that she felt she had been "thrown under the bus" due to the controversy over her selection.

But she praised the support she had received from Fenlator.

"Jaz has had some pep talks with me, kind of gearing me in the right way. When you have somebody who knows is counting on you it's more motivation," said Jones.

Jones also said that it took time to get adjusted to the details of the bobsleigh, adding that the switch from track and field wasn't easy.

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Injured Russian skier taken to Germany as crashes mount

SOCHI (AFP) - The Russian freestyle skier who fractured her spine in the worst accident of the Winter Olympics was Sunday flown to Germany city of Munich for treatment, as the Sochi Games saw new high-speed crashes.

Maria Komissarova, 23, had undergone a six-and-a-half-hour operation at a hospital in Krasnaya Polyana outside Sochi, after the horrific accident in training Saturday for the ski-cross event.

But following a visit to her bedside late Saturday by President Vladimir Putin, a decision was taken to fly her to Munich for further treatment.

"Today, Maria Komissarova was transferred on a special flight for the continuation of her treatment in Germany," said the statement by Russian freestyle ski federation.

"In line with a decision by her family, she has been sent to a clinic in Munich specialised in the treatment of this kind of injury," it added.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko told the R-Sport news agency that

Komissarova had arrived in Germany in the afternoon and would undergo a second operation there.

Mutko emphasised that like other Russian athletes at the Games, Komissarova was fully insured so there would be no problem financing her treatment.

The federation said earlier Sunday that she remained in a "serious but stable" condition. It has declined to give any prognosis or further details.

Ski-cross is one of the most frenetic and risky events of the Games, where skiers race down a slope filled with jumps, obstacles and banked corners.

In the similar snowboard cross event, medal hopeful Helene Olafsen from Norway was taken to hospital with a knee injury.

In other freestyle disciplines, Swiss aerials competitor Christopher Lambert suffered a suspected dislocated elbow while Britain's Rowan Cheshire was stretchered off the halfpipe after being knocked unconscious.



Gold medalist Eva Samkova of the Czech Republic celebrates

time of 1min 18.14sec.

Miller's teammate Andrew Weibrecht, super-G bronze medallist in Vancouver in 2010, went one better from four years ago, taking silver at 0.30sec. Canada's Jan Hudec was a surprise joint third with Miller at 0.53sec.

At 36 years and 127 days, Miller became the oldest medallist in Olympic skiing history.

Nordic skiing - 4x10km

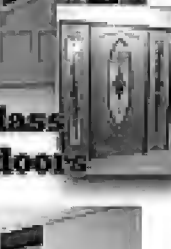
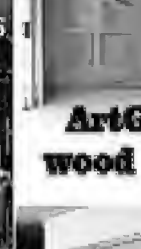
Sweden took gold with a dominant performance in the men's 4x10km cross country

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**Winning is habit.
Unfortunately, so
is losing.**

Vince Lombardi

Braves sign closer Kimbrel to four-year deal



ORLANDO (AFP) - The Atlanta Braves on Sunday signed All-Star closing pitcher Craig Kimbrel to a four-year deal worth a reported \$42 million.

With the contract, which includes an option for 2018, the Braves avoided salary arbitration and secured the

long-term services of another young talent.

"He is one of the key pieces of our pitching staff and we are happy to keep him in a Braves uniform for at least four more years," said Braves general manager Frank Wren.

Kimbrel, 25, has already recorded 139 saves. The Braves did not give the terms of the deal, but the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported he will earn \$42 million over the four years. According to the newspaper, the option is worth \$13 million.

Kimbrel was the 2011 National League Rookie of the Year and last season the right-hander finished fourth in voting for the NL Cy Young Award after tying for the major league lead in saves with a career-high 50.

He posted a 1.21 earned run average. He converted a club record 37 straight save opportunities from May 9-September 14.

Ronaldo-less Madrid join three-way tie at top

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid made light of the absence of the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo with a 3-0 win away at Getafe to move level with Barcelona and Atletico Madrid at the top of La Liga.

It took the visitors just five minutes to make the breakthrough as Jese Rodriguez curled home his fifth goal in six games from Gareth Bale's pass.

Karim Benzema doubled Madrid's advantage as he finished off Angel di Maria's fine cross before the break and Luka Modric rounded off the scoring with an effort from outside the box midway through the second-half.

All three sides at the top are now tied on 60 points with 14 games still to play.

Whilst Barcelona and Atletico return to Champions

League action this week, Madrid have the luxury of a week off as they don't travel to Schalke for the first leg of their last 16 tie until February 26.

Los Blancos are now 24 games unbeaten in all competitions and after also keeping their 11th clean sheet in 13 games in 2014, boss Carlo Ancelotti believes they are in top form at just the right time of the season.

Ronaldo's three-match suspension after being sent-off against Athletic Bilbao earlier this month has allowed Jese to get a continued run in the side and the Spaniard continued to make his case for a place in Vicente del Bosque's World Cup squad with a precise finish into the far corner.

Boston hurler Dempster will sit out 2014

FORT MYERS (AFP) - Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Ryan Dempster said Sunday he won't play in 2014, citing health and family reasons in the surprise announcement.

Dempster, who signed a two-year contract with the Red Sox before last season, was scheduled to make \$13.25 million in 2014. He will likely be placed on the restricted list, in which case he won't receive salary compensation. Dempster, 36, didn't rule out a return to Major League Baseball in the future.

"I've never had to work a day in my life," Dempster said. "It's meant the world to me. I'm so thrilled and humbled by everything the game has given me."

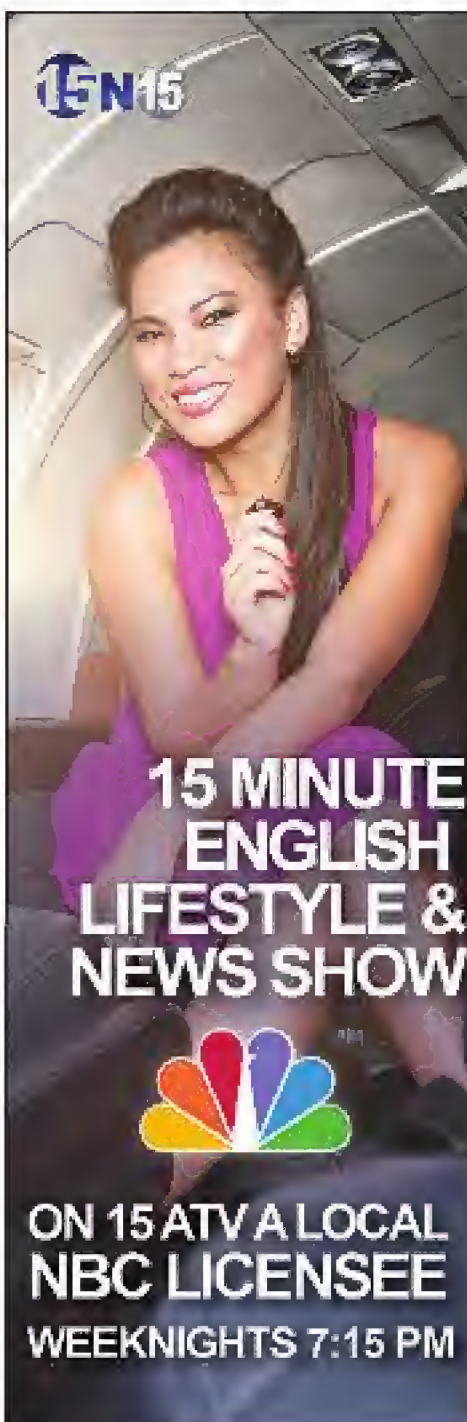
Dempster, a two-time All-Star, amassed an 8-9 record with a 4.57 earned run average in 32 games last season in helping the Red Sox to the World Series title.

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Jorien ter Mors leads another Dutch sweep



Jorien ter Mors of the Netherlands on her way to snatching gold

SOCHI (AFP) - Dutch athlete Jorien ter Mors smashed the Olympic record to take women's 1,500m gold on Sunday as the Netherlands swept the top four places, tightening their iron grip on the speed skating competition.

The Netherlands have turned Sochi's Adler Arena orange, winning 16 of 24 medals on offer and taking five golds out of eight, leaving their rivals in the shade.

Ter Mors -- racing in the ninth pair -- went almost 4.5sec quicker than then race leader Olga Fatkulina of Russia, setting a mark of 1min 53.51sec that not even her Dutch rivals could match.

Defending champion Ireen Wust, who has already won the 3,000m and taken silver in the 1,000m, came second, 0.58sec off the winning time while Lotte van Beek (1:54.54) took bronze.

With nine pairs still to go, ter Mors -- also competing in short track in Sochi -- faced a long, anxious wait as her rivals chased down her time.

When the last racers crossed the line the champion, also competing in the short track at the Sochi Games, raised her arms in triumph and could not hold back her emotions.

"I'm not used to these kind of situations. In short track you immediately know if you have won. Now I had to wait and it was very nerve-wracking," said the gold medalist.

"I never expected to win gold here, but I had a very good race. Technically it was good. I kept pace, I skated in a compact position, it was just about keeping skating. At the finish line I looked up and I was first."

Marrit Leenstra finished fourth to underline the Netherlands' complete dominance.



L-R) Silver medalist Ireen Wust of the Netherlands, gold medalist Jorien ter Mors of the Netherlands and bronze medalist Lotte van Beek of the Netherlands on the podium

"I tried to be satisfied because Jorien was just the best today," said Wust.

"My race was 90 percent and I needed 100 percent to win the gold," added the silver medalist, who equalled the Dutch record of six Olympic Winter Games medals held by Rintje Ritsma.

It is the first time a country

has taken the top four places at an Olympic Winter Games since East Germany did it in men's luge at the 1972 Games.

The Netherlands' tally of 16 medals in speed skating is a new record for any country in any sport at a single Winter Games. Austria won 14 in alpine skiing in Turin in 2006.